Import of Chicken Legs

†1725. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of chicken legs imported during the last three months and the revenue earned thereby in the form of customs duty;

(b) the reason for the import of chicken legs and the places where these legs are likely to be consumed and the reasons under which US have exported the same; and

(c) the reasons for not importing the same after meeting the domestic demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There has been no import of Chicken legs during April-June 2001.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export Oriented Oil Refinery at Kakinada Port

1726. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an export oriented unit of oil refinery at Kakinada Port by the Petro Energy Products Company Ltd. at a revised cost of Rs. 2652 crores;

(b) whether it is a fact that the project was originally approved in June, 1994 at a cost of Rs. 500 crores only; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay resulting in more than five fold escalation in its cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Government does not propose to set up an oil refinery export oriented unit. However, M/s Petro Energy Products Company Limited was granted LOI in June, 1994 to set up an oil refinery unit under the EOU Scheme at Karaikal in the Union Territory of Pondicherry with an investment of Rs 500.25 crores. The company was granted extension of the validity of the approval from time to time and the last extension

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

was granted for a period upto 27.6.2003. Further, on the request of the unit, Government has also approved the change of location from Karaikal, Pondicherry to Kakinada Port (Peddapuram R.B. Patnam, East Godavari) in Andhra Pradesh on 16.8.2000.

Subsidies Protect to Rural Women's Interest

1727. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to seek exemption to provide subsidies to women, especially in rural areas, involved in income generation at the lower economic strata, and to evolve mechanisms to protect women enterpreneurs and workers from the adverse effect of World Trade Organisation regime;

(b) whether Government propose to take up the issue of setting up a "gender box" action to the "green box" in the World Trade Organisation regime at the next round of negotiations to achieve this objective; and

(c) the details of decision, if any, has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures permits developing countries, having annual per capita income of less than $1000, to provide subsidies upto 3 per cent *de minimis* level without attracting countervailing action. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) prohibits institution of any new export subsidies, but it permits the developing countries to reduce the cost of marketing exports, including handling, upgarding and other processing costs, and the costs of international and domestic transport and freight. AoA also permits the developing countries to give product specific and non-product specific domestic support upto 10 per cent of the value of agricultural production without undertaking any reduction commitments as well as investment and input subsidies provided to Low income resource poor farmers'.

At present there is no proposal with the Government for creation of a "gender box". However, India in its proposals submitted to the WTO for the ongoing negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture, has demanded creation of a "Food Security Box" so as to take care of its food security and livelihood concerns and has, *inter alia*, sought sufficient flexibility for domestic